Welcome to Foothill College! You are joining a very special community of dedicated professionals who are committed to your educational success. We have outstanding programs and services that are the envy of many other colleges and we want you to take full advantage of our offerings.

Many of us are the first in our family to graduate from college. I fall into that category and can empathize with the challenges that you may face related to finances, time management, familiarity with educational systems, and social adjustments. The good news is that Foothill has excellent support services to assist you in making informed and wise choices regarding your educational plans and equally excellent instructional programs to prepare you for transfer and the workplace.

In addition to working hard, be sure to enjoy the vibrant student life that is part of the Foothill tradition. Join a club, attend cultural activities scheduled throughout the year, become a campus ambassador, or volunteer in your community through the volunteer center. Learning occurs outside the classroom as well and you could establish new friendships that last a lifetime.

Have a wonderful year and please drop by to say hello during the open office hours that I will hold each month!

Wishing you the best,

Judy C. Miner
Foothill College President

Harambee 2007: Afrocentric Rites of Passage a Huge Success

Harambee 2007 was a powerful mix of pride, love, appreciation, motivation and success. The rites of passage celebration marked the achievements of Foothill students of African descent who were graduating, transferring or receiving a career certificate. Foothill faculty, staff, administrators and distinguished members of the community united with student honorees and their families to witness the ceremony that began with a call of the drums performed by Jaliya, an African drumming corps. Jaliya led the procession into the Playhouse Theatre, which was beautifully adorned with African cloth, art, and placards containing historic Afrocentric quotations. Gail Ortega, director of Multicultural Student Affairs at Menlo College, led the opening libation, which grounded the rite of passage with acknowledgment of the ancestors on whose strength we all draw from. By the close of the libation, it was clear that all in attendance were receptive to the power that the ceremony would uniquely acknowledge students’ academic accomplishments and contributions to the Foothill community. Davida Vance-Lee then led the audience in a powerful rendition of Lift Every Voice.

Sean Fuller, Foothill alumnus, Class of 1995, and one of the student leaders who founded Harambee 13 years ago, urged students to set goals and have the courage to pursue their goals. He stressed the imperative need to give back to their community. Sean’s charge to African American student honoraries was a powerful motivator and springboard to the Oath of Service. Malcom Harvey, Foothill Class of 1999, wrote the Oath of Service, a pledge to academic excellence and a commitment to give back to communities of African ancestry. The students recited this oath as a public declaration of their commitment to serve and strive for excellence in advancing personal, professional and community development. Exceptional service awards were presented to Anika Dodds, Nakeesha Cetan and Darran Moore for their leadership and service contributions to the development of campus and community programs. Ujima Awards were presented to Herlisa Hamp, Robert Garcia and Lorraine Dabney for their service as either employees of the college or community supporter of the student success at Foothill.

Thanks to the dedication of the Harambee’s planning committee, the ceremony was a clear and memorable marker of our students’ tremendous success.

The African American Network’s Annual Student Welcome BBQ & Orientation

On Wednesday, Oct. 3, new and returning students of African descent are invited to a free barbecue for orientation to campus programs, staff and resources that support their academic success. Students will receive information on financial aid, tutorial services and other support services such as the Pass the Torch, Mfumo and Brother 2 Brother programs. New students will also have a chance to meet Foothill College student leaders as well as faculty, staff, and administrators who are here to assist in their development. The event runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the outdoor BBQ pit located between the district offices and tennis courts. For more information please call 650 949-7635, or visit the Intramural/Recreation office in the Campus Center.

INSIDE . . .
Habari Gani!! . . . 2
African American Achiever Awards Program . . . 3
Highlights of 2007 Foothill BHM . . . 7
AAN Calendar of Events . . . 8
AAN Executive Board . . . 8
Meet the African American Network . . . 8
Harambee 2007: Pride and Achievement . . . 1
Faculty and Staff in the News . . . 2
Where Are They Now? . . . 6
2007 Ujima Award Recipients . . . 2
Programs & Services Update . . . 4
Welcome to the 2007-2008 academic year. We are pleased to share our fall edition of The Griot with the entire Foothill community, and dedicate it to new and returning students of African descent. This is a terrible time to be a student at Foothill as we begin celebrating 50 years of academic excellence and service as a college, the opening of our new Campus Center and Lower Campus Complex; completion of most major construction and renovation projects; and the return of a beautiful campus environment that fosters exciting opportunities for teaching, learning, and personal growth.

The Griot (pronounced Grec’-oh) is published by the African American Network, an organization whose purpose is to function in an advocacy and support role for Foothill-De Anza Community College District employees of African descent as well as Foothill College students of African descent. A “griot” is a storyteller in traditional West African culture whose role is to preserve the oral history of the village or clan. They are revered clan members who commit to memory important events in a village’s history like births, deaths, marriages and battles. A griot embodies the collective memory of the village to ensure a perspective of the past as well as the news of the day upon which to base its decisions. It is in the spirit of that tradition that The Griot is published. Through this publication we document and celebrate the legacy of academic achievement and service that Foothill College students of African descent have established over the decades. In this issue you will find articles that focus on current and former students who have successfully balanced Foothill’s rigorous academic programs, leadership and service commitments, family obligations and the responsibilities of work and career.

On behalf of the Foothill College African American Network and supporters, we wish you the best for a successful school year. We look forward to seeing you on campus. Welcome — or welcome back! — to Foothill.

Sincerely,

Donald Dorsey, President
African American Network

Mrs. Dabney has been a generous supporter of Foothill College for many decades. Her late husband, George, retired as Dean of Social Sciences at De Anza College in 1990 after more than 20 years of teaching and advising. Lorraine retired in 1998 after teaching elementary school for 32 years.

She is an active servant of the community through her work with the African American Family-to-Family Coalition, Black Infant Health Advisory Board, Saint Elizabeth Seton Development Board, and serves as a tutor for the Saint Elizabeth Seton School.

She is a tireless advocate of youth, through organizations such as Jack & Jill of America, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and The Links. She is a founding member of the Silicon Valley chapter of the Links and currently serves as a board member.

Donald Dorsey, President
African American Network

Peninsula Bay Chapter of the Links, Inc., Recognizes Dorsey

During the spring Peninsula Bay Chapter of the Links, Inc., sponsored, “Affair to Remember”, its annual benefit gala at the Westin Hotel in Millbrae. During the event, Donald Dorsey, dean of Student Affairs & Activities, Foothill College was one of three persons presented the 2007 Community Service Award for his involvement, support and encouragement of the chapters youth programs and involvement with the Foothill College Dallas Black Dance Theatre Residency Program.

Habari Gani!!!

Don Dorsey
AAN President/Dean of Student Affairs & Activities

Habari Gani is a Swahili greeting for 'What's happening?'

2007 Ujima Awards Recipients

Colin Powell once said, “As you seek your way in the world, never fail to find a way to serve your community.” Serving the Foothill community is exactly what the 2007 Ujima Award recipients have done with profound commitment, diligence, purpose and heart. Robert Garcia, program coordinator, Foothill Pass the Torch; Herlisa Hamp, former outreach specialist, Foothill Outreach & Retention Office; and Lorraine Dabney, advisory board member Foothill Dallas Black Dance Theatre Residency Program, received the 2007 Ujima Award for distinguished service.

The African American Network has presented the Ujima Awards during Hanambee for four years. The awards recognize colleagues whose work with our Foothill community best represents the Kwanzaa principle of Ujima. (collective work and responsibility).

Mrs. Dabney has been a generous supporter of Foothill College for many decades. Her late husband, George, retired as Dean of Social Sciences at De Anza College in 1990 after more than 20 years of teaching and advising. Lorraine retired in 1998 after teaching elementary school for 32 years. She is an active servant of the community through her work with the African American Family-to-Family Coalition, Black Infant Health Advisory Board, Saint Elizabeth Seton Development Board, and serves as a tutor for the Saint Elizabeth Seton School.

She is a tireless advocate of youth, through organizations such as Jack & Jill of America, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and The Links. She is a founding member of the Silicon Valley chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women.

She has actively supported the Foothill College Dallas Black Dance Theatre Residency Program since 1995, and is currently a member of its advisory committee. Through her efforts and involvement with audience development, the residency program is now accessible to hundreds of young people and has recently expanded to include a matinee for older adults.

Habari Gani!!!

STAFF IN THE NEWS

African American Network Welcomes New Members . . .

Carleen Bruins
Web Content Developer, Marketing and Communications

Carleen Bruins comes to us from De Anza College, where she was the Web content developer for 7 years. Bruins has had multiple careers, including teaching natural science and working in public relations. She has a keen interest in Web usability and developing Web sites that communicate effectively. An avid reader, Bruins also enjoys creative writing, textile arts, gardening, hiking, vegetarian cooking and traveling. She and her husband recently visited Libya, where they witnessed their third solar eclipse. She is looking forward to collaborating with others to make Foothill’s web site the best community college site in the state.

Matais Pouncil
EOPS Director

Matais Pouncil grew up in the Bay Area, but is originally from the Midwest. He earned a B.S. in Economics from Southern University in Baton Rouge and an Ed.M. in Social and Multicultural Foundations at California State University, Long Beach. He is currently a doctoral candidate in the Educational Administration and Leadership program at the University of California, Irvine. Matais has worked with Title IV and Title V programs for nearly 10 years. He has been an adjunct faculty member at UC Irvine and a consultant with the Anti-Defamation League.

Peninsula Bay Chapter of the Links, Inc., Recognizes Dorsey

During the spring Peninsula Bay Chapter of the Links, Inc., sponsored, “Affair to Remember”, its annual benefit gala at the Westin Hotel in Millbrae. During the event, Donald Dorsey, dean of Student Affairs & Activities, Foothill College was one of three persons presented the 2007 Community Service Award for his involvement, support and encouragement of the chapters youth programs and involvement with the Foothill College Dallas Black Dance Theatre Residency Program.

“Build our temples for tomorrow, strong as we know them, and we stand on top of the mountain, free within ourselves.”

Langston Hughes

cont’d pg.8
The 9th Annual African American Achiever Awards were presented in February during Foothill’s Black History Month Celebration. The ceremony recognized outstanding academic achievement, leadership and service among graduating and transferring students of African descent at Foothill and local high schools in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. Q’d ud Taheude Aqeel, MPA (aka Andre Duke), was the featured alumni speaker and received the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Faculty in each of the following divisions selected the following Foothill students to be honored: The George Washington Carver Achievement Award was presented to Kathy Anyabwu by the Adaptive Learning Division; the Reginald Lewis Achievement Award was presented to Florentine Tanya Gourenne by the Business & Social Sciences Division; the Lewis Latimer Achievement Award to was presented to Tashena McGriff by the Computers, Technology & Information Systems Division; the Lorraine Hansberry Achievement Award was presented to Derrick Brooks by the Fine Arts & Communications Division; the Daniel Hale Williams Achievement Award was presented to Titus Hodge by the Biological & Health Sciences Division; the Toni Morrison Achievement Award was presented to Darran Moore by the Language Arts Division; the Lois Lattimore Achievement Award was presented to Regis Kouassi by the Physical Sciences, Mathematics & Engineering Division; the Jackie Robinson Achievement Award was presented to Seckia Willis and Chantz Staden by the Physical Education & Human Performance Division; the Thurgood Marshall Achievement Award for Outstanding Leadership & Service was presented to Anika Dodds by the Student Affairs & Activities Office.

The following students were selected by their respective high schools to be honored: Brittnay Bates, Aragon High School; Ayeetin Azah, Archbishop Mitty High School; Stephen Powell, Bellarmine College Preparatory; Fonda Joah, Capuchino High School; Nereya Otieno, Cupertino High School; William Martin, Fremont High School; Chyna Frank, Hillsdale High School, Maxine Welcome, Home- stead High School; Lorraine Nelson, Independence High School; Avery Clabynoe, James Lick High School; Bekka Jackson, Loy Altos High School; Martin Smith, Mountain View High School; Jennifer Slotnick, Notre Dame High School; Annie Sulaiman, Oak Grove High School; Ashley Laura Pirazaro, Peninsula High School; cont’d pg. 6

**Student Leaders Honored**

Three Foothill students were honored for outstanding leadership and service at the 13th Annual Harmabee Rites of Passage Ceremony on Friday, June 29th. Anika Dodds, Darran Moore and Nakeesha Ceran exemplify the best of those who contribute to every aspect of campus life and statewide student leadership development. The African American Network invites you to read about their endeavors and consider how you may become a future leader at Foothill. Remember, we have dynamic mentors and a host of caring faculty and staff to guide you along the way. Bring your ideas and your interests. Continue to build upon the legacy of outstanding leadership in our community.

Darran Moore came to Foothill College when he discovered that he would be allowed the creative and academic freedom denied to him in high school. Not long after becoming acquainted with the college, he fully immersed himself in Student Life on campus. He was an active participant in the Associated Students of Foothill College, our student government, co-founder of the Foothill Pre-Medical Society and chair of the Academic Committee for the Brother-to-Brother organization. He maintained the academic rigor of membership in the Foothill Honors Institute, conducted independent research for the Biology Department and actively participated in the Foothill Repertory Dance Company.

While serving as president of Brother to Brother, he was instrumental in elevating the organization to the recognizable force that it is today. It is no surprise that he was asked to present his organization before the national Student African American Brotherhood, West Convention last fall and is an outstanding role model for young men as a mentor in the Jerico Mentoring Project.

Nakeesha Ceran is enthusiastic, positive and a joy to work with. She takes time to help people and always follows through with her commitments. She is in touch with culture, arts, leadership, personal growth and academics and balances all of her responsibilities with grace. Nakeesha held numerous leadership positions that include; President of the Black Student Union, BSA representative to ASFC’s Board of Directors, Co-Chair of the Black History Month Planning Committee, and active member of CALSACC Black Caucus. She recently led a workshop at the statewide Black Caucus Conference on successful club leadership.

Anika Dodds has a quiet confidence and inspires others through her example. She is dedicated, focused, goal-oriented and takes initiative to make things happen. Anika served as President of the Black Student Union and Co-Chair of the Black History Month Planning Committee. She also participated in statewide student leadership through the California Black Caucus and attended and presented at many statewide conferences.

For campus life participation or leadership contact: Steve Mitchell, 949-763-135 (smithellspeas@foothill.edu

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**“Our Black Gold”**

Foothill College African American Network congratulates our Class of 2007

The following students either earned the Foothill College Associate in Art or Associate in Science degree, were accepted for transfer to a four-year college/university or earned a Foothill College Career Certificate:

- Tsehaynesh E. Abate
- Patricia L. Leigh
- Priscilla Bates
- Elisabet Lopes Da Luz
- Ellen Elizabeth Berhane
- Frank Magallanes
- Mihret Bizen
- Reuben Brandon Brown
- Guillermo Moreira
- Teresa Michelle Brown
- Santa M. Muhammad
- Anita R. Bryant
- Curtis J. Owens
- Kalinda Adia Burton
- John Peggam
- Nakeesha Ceran
- Kieth Robertson
- Juanita Croft
- Andrea Robinson
- Darreau M. Cuellar-Simms
- Richard Scott
- Anika Dodds
- Robert Scott
- Ahmad M. El-Amin
- Ameika Sims
- Abdusamad Es a. Es a
- Julia L. Smith
- Delali Afrikan
- Sally Stallings
- Joe Francis
- La Shonda Michelle Strauss
- Venincen W. Garrett
- China Strickland
- Monica L. Gordon
- Elisa Tonfack
- Quimani Shene Green
- Larissa Tonfack
- Simeon T. Henry
- Joseph G. Townsend
- Christopher Jackson
- John Isaac Washington
- Clifford L. Johnson
- Ajene White
- Jerry L. Jones
- Marilyn Williams
- Herver Joseph

Congratulations to the following student athletes who were accepted for transfer studies and/or received scholarships and will continue their studies at four-year colleges/universities: Christopher Jackson-North Dakota State Andre Robinson- CSU Sacramento Joseph Townsend - University of Nebraska Schneider Julien-Western Michigan University Herver Joseph Richard Scott Robert Scott Sekcia Willis

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“Armed with the knowledge of our past, we can with confidence chart a course for our future.”
Support Programs and Services at Work For You!

The Mfumo Program

Mfumo (Swahili for connectiveness) is a one-year community learning and peer support program whose purpose is to increase the retention, matriculation and transfer rate of Foothill College students. The Mfumo curriculum has an emphasis on African American literature, writers, and success strategies in higher education.

Incorporated into the program are accelerated English writing instruction, college success instruction, academic counseling, and mentoring from administrators, faculty and staff at Foothill College.

Mfumo has four components that work together to prepare students to earn the Foothill associate degree, complete a career program, or transfer to a four-year college or university.

Course Instruction
Mfumo classes provide a supportive and stimulating environment for students. Students take three consecutive writing classes, English 100, English 110 and English 1A. These classes have an emphasis on developing writing skills through an exploration of the African American experience taken predominantly from African American authors.

The College Success courses: CNSL 1, CNSL 60 and CNSL 85H focus on success strategies for college.

For more information, contact a program advisor:
- Maisha Haywood-Smith (650) 949-7366
- Kimberly Lane (650) 949-7567
- Natalia Menendez (650) 949-7438

Brother to Brother?

The Brother-to-Brother (BTB) Bridge Program is designed to ensure that male students of African and Latino ancestry are successful in their pursuit of goals and careers requiring higher education. Students in this target population who are seniors in high school or who are age 17 or 18, are ideal candidates for the program. The program includes a assistant, with financial aid, mentoring, monitored academic progress and guidance through the matriculation process to transfer to a four-year college.

Join a dynamic group of young men destined to make a difference by cultivating leadership skills and serving their community and younger brothers.

For more information, contact a BTB program advisor:
- Donald Dorney (650) 949-7389
- Jorge Rodriguez (650) 949-7636
- Stephen Mitchell (650) 949-7635

EOPS What?

EOPS is a student support program that assists financially needy and educationally disadvantaged students seeking a college education. The program is designed to increase educational attainment and promote student retention, persistence and success. The EOPS Program has a staff of trained professionals who are eager to help students achieve their academic, career and personal goals.

Staff members provide guidance in the areas of applying for admission to college, completing financial aid applications, identifying campus resources, completing transfer requirements to four-year universities, and keeping students informed as they progress through Foothill College.

For more information, call Maita Pouneoa (650) 949.7223.

Personal and Psychological Counseling

Are you worried and stressed out by personal problems? Burdened by family/relationship conflicts and demands? Feeling the pressures of being a student athlete? Can’t concentrate on assignments because you are depressed or exhausted after working long hours? Are video games, drugs and other addictions affecting your life? Learning disabilities have you feeling like giving up? Or do you talk to friends because you fear your business will be on the street? YOU ARE NOT ALONE AND YOUR RELIEF IS JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY!

As a Foothill College student, you can receive free, confidential, personal counseling from the on-campus Psychological Services & Personal Counseling Office. Licensed mental health professionals and graduate interns offer free eight week counseling sessions to currently enrolled Foothill students. It does not matter how many units you are carrying as long as you are currently enrolled. If you are not sure you want to try the service yet, visit our informative web site at http://www.foothill.edu/vec/psych.php. Or stop by the office in Room 2120, to check out the comfortable, friendly environment. You can make an appointment to see what we do and how we can help. Most students who have fully used our services find them to be very professional and very practical.

We are also offering an exciting class this fall, STRESS, WELLNESS AND COPING (CNSL 72) that meets the general education CSU transfer requirement for Lifelong Learning and Understanding. The call number for this class is #2008. The one unit class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 11:20 a.m. in room 4004 and is taught by Foothill Counselor, Ernest Schmidt, LCSW.

For individual counseling appointments, call (650) 949-7389 or visit the Psychological Services & Personal Counseling Office located in the new Campus Center in Room 2120. Or contact Melanie Hule (650) 949-7686 if you’re here for you!

Dreading Math?

Math My Way is Your Solution!

Equations make you queasy and percentages may as well be Greek, and your notion of higher math is balancing the checkbook. Numerators, denominators, decimals, fractions, and sums: It’s enough to make you panic or scream. Or give up.

At Foothill College, we offer a different approach. We’ve created Math My Way, a hands-on series of self-paced math learning modules that combine patient, caring, understanding instruction with a group of students who have similar math skill levels. Along with the small groups and one-to-one attention from your math teacher, Math My Way includes computer and paper drills, and computer games.

The truth is, even though you may not be a “math person”, you’ll still need to complete a few math courses during your college experience. At Foothill, we want your math experience to be positive. Our mutual goal is to help you develop math confidence as well as grasp basic math concepts. In fact, we can help you master your math skills, and based on our research you should have an excellent chance of passing the next level of math (e.g., algebra) instruction at Foothill and any other college or university. Students who participated in Foothill’s Math My Way last fall in earned a minimum grade of B+ in the MATH 101 course the following quarter.

For more information contact Nisch Gray (650) 949-7175

Pass the Torch

Pass the Torch respects each student’s individuality. Our students come from a variety of economic, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. They work together in teams to strive for the highest possible grade for each individual member. Our goals are to see that every student in Pass the Torch has the opportunity of success regardless of his or her past educational experiences. Also we want to see our students move on to higher levels of educational attainment. Pass the Torch is a stepping stone. Pass the Torch not only helps each student achieve his or her academic goals, but it is also a place on campus of pride, respect and fun.

Pass the Torch, is a unique study team project that pairs high-achieving community college students with students who self-select to join a study team. Study teams are paired in the following courses: English as a second language (ESL), English, and mathematics. Each team consists of a team leader and a team member. The leader has already completed that subject or a higher level subject with an “A” grade and the member is currently enrolled in the course. The member is encouraged to become a leader in the following quarter. This program targets underrepresented minority students but all students are eligible to be matched in a study team.

For more information, call Robert Garcia (650)949.7358.

How to Get a Job on Campus

Foothill College work opportunities are part-time positions. Wages begin at $7.50 per hour and can reach $12 per hour. Most students can work up to 25 hours per week while classes are in session and 40 hours during school recess breaks.

Non-need based jobs are called district employment, and students must be enrolled a minimum of six units to be eligible for these jobs (12 units for international students). The policies and procedures governing student employment are districtwide and apply at both De Anza and Foothill Colleges.

On-campus student employment information, visit the Financial Aid Office.普及 of pride, respect and fun.

Federal Work Study (FWS)

The Federal Work-Study Program provides jobs for students who have financial need and want to earn a part of their educational expenses through employment. Community service work opportunities are also available through the Federal Work-Study Program. Students cannot work over the award amount allocated for a work-study assignment. When a work-study award is made, the student is responsible for arranging an interview with the Financial Aid Office for job placement. Foothill supervisors who wish to post an available position, print, complete and forward the Federal Work Study Job Announcement Form to the Financial Aid Office.

Make use of our Network!

Our network extends beyond Foothill’s faculty, staff, administrators and students. It includes education advocates from our community who are committed to helping you succeed.

4
Marc Spears
Class of 1992

Before he reported that MARK McGUIRE broke baseball’s home run record, covered MUHAMMAD ALI being named Kentucky’s Athlete of the Century, covered the NBA Finals and All-Star Game, and hosted a basketball radio show with Hall of Fame Dan Issel, award-winning sports journalist MARC J. SPEARS was a student at Foothill College.

The San Jose native wrote numerous articles for Foothill’s student-operated newspaper, The Sentinel, and played on the college’s 1992 Coast Conference championship basketball team.

Upon graduation from San Jose’s Andrew Hill High in 1990, he studied at Foothill and later completed its Minority Transfer Program in 1992.

Marc next landed a full basketball scholarship to the University of the District of Columbia in Washington, D.C. Disappointed with U-D-C’s lack of support, he completed its Minority Transfer Program in 1992.

Marc graduated with a BFA degree in graphic design and interface design.

He is currently the marketing director for City Team Ministries an international non-profit that helps the poor and the homeless around the world. He coordinates and oversees print production projects designed to meet the needs of the international and US based offices. He manages Web site production, implementing seasonal campaigns, blogs and audio/video.

His passions in painting, drawing, multimedia, graphic design and Web design led him to start his own company - Uto-Uko Design is a marketing and branding firm offering a full range of print and interactive marketing solutions. It specializes in integrated marketing and brand strategy, corporate identity, Web design, animation and Web application development. For this work, he has been honored with several national and state design awards. He also does freelance film production for Fox Sports Northwest (FSN) Bay Area.

He is also the Vice President of operations and co-founder of FAWN (Food, Art and Wine Network). This online cultural resource provides newsletters, pod casts, articles and information on food, art and wine. www.fawnisculture.com.

He recently used his artistic abilities to illustrate two children’s books, The ABCs of People in the Bible and Aaron’s Special Sunday, which is the biography of a young boy’s battle to overcome cancer.

He advises incoming and returning students to establish and create a vision. “Everyone has the capability of becoming a great leader, a great doctor, a great lawyer and a great scientist but on that road to greatness there is sacrifice to be made, oceans to be crossed, and mountains to climb. Learn to view those setbacks, not as obstacles, but as opportunities to grow stronger in character and sharper in fortitude.”

Sarce Mading
Class of 1992

I came to Foothill College after graduating from Sequoia High School in Redwood City in 1989. By 1990, I was a single parent on welfare. I knew that education was going to help me make better choices in life so I decided to stick with going to school at Foothill. I studied general education and remember receiving lots of help and guidance from my beloved counselor, Jean Thomas. When I left Foothill College in 1992, I knew that my time had been well spent.

I went on to study at California State University, Sacramento. I graduated with a bachelor’s degree in social science. Later, I married, had two more children and by 2000, I moved back to East Palo Alto and began teaching in the Ravenswood City School District. I studied at Notre Dame de Namur University and received my California Teaching Credential in 2002 as well as a master’s degree in public administration this past May. Currently, I am the dean of students at the East Palo Alto Charter School.

My recommendation for new/prospective students is to get connected with a counselor or someone who has worked on campus for a while. Having someone close by to encourage me was the number-one factor for my success at Foothill. I would also suggest that new students take advantage of any of the various extra curricular activities offered at Foothill. I found that singing in the choir and being a part of the Black Student Union helped me meet other young people from all over the world. Being in touch with other young achievers helped me stay focused on my goals. Although it took me a while to get this far, I could not have made it without my start at Foothill College. I am a proud product of Foothill College!

“Your future is what you make it. If you have a purpose in which you can believe, there’s no end to the amount of things you can accomplish.”

Marian Anderson, American opera singer
2007 Black History Month Highlights at Foothill College

Foothill’s 2007 Black History Month was packed with opportunities to explore history and culture. Thousands of Foothill students and community members took advantage of these exciting opportunities. The theme for the month was Reclaiming Our Identity. The celebration began with a meet-the-artist reception for Oakland artist Karin Turner, whose work was on exhibit in Seman’s Library and KJ’s Café throughout February. Her works reflected the theme and were synonymous with the single thought of uplifting optimism.

The Foothill read-in was next featuring the poet/musician Avotcja, the music of Modupe, including cellist Sandi Poindexter and three hours of music, poetry and reading from original works and selected African American authors. During the program, Foothill students joined more than one million readers from across the nation in the 18th Annual National African American Read-In sponsored by the National Council for Teachers of English.

The opening ceremony featured a presentation by artist Milton Bowen on his exhibit, “Can We Spare Some Change”. The exhibit, which began a national tour in February, includes a painting honoring the life and work of Foothill Counselor Jean Thomas, Ph.D., who passed away in 2005. Bowen’s presentation was organized with a bone marrow registry drive in collaboration with the National Marrow Donor Program Registry and Foothill’s Health Services.

The Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) returned for its 11th consecutive year to provide two lecture demonstrations, and elegantly performed for 2,000 middle-school-age students from local Bay Area schools. The company’s Foothill residency included a master class for Foothill dance students and community dance programs, and the premiere of an overwhelmingly successful matinee performance for active older adults which was co-sponsored by the Adaptive Learning Division. The evening performance was a huge success with a near-capacity crowd in the Smithwick Theatre.

For the second year, a Race Car Showcase: African Americans in Auto Racing featuring three African American Drivers was presented. Racers David Mills and Clyde Flewellen, thrilled students by showcasing two of their cars that were part of the San Jose Grand Prix. This duo also discussed opportunities, challenges and the history of African Americans in professional motor sports.

The Black History Month Lecture Series included presentations by comedian Vince Morris; Professor Manu Ampim; Eddie Moore, Ph.D.; San Jose State Instructor Anthony Powell; Natalia Menendez and Harry Satterfield, both Foothill faculty. Morris kicked the series off with a dynamic and thought-provoking presentation that challenged participants to look at and change negative images and stereotypes. Professor Ampim’s contribution to the series was a powerful presentation on classical African civilizations of the Nile Valley representing the longest recorded history of advanced civilization in the world. Dr. Moore helped students take an interactive, challenging and thorough look at the history of the “N” word. Powell presented a provocative retrospective on “The Buffalo Soldier” focused on retired 1st Sergeants Samuel N. Walker, who served in the U.S. Army from 1887 to 1927. Finally, three of the eleven original vignettes of “The Colored Museum” were used by Menendez and Satterfield, for a film and provocative panel discussion focused on deflating Black stereotypes in America.

The 9th Annual African American Achiever Awards Ceremony encouraged and recognized exceptional scholars and leaders from Foothill College as well as 20 San Mateo and Santa Clara county high schools. The featured speaker was Foothill alumna Qa’id Tauheed A*qeel, who resides in Oakland, is a youth advocate, community organizer, and member of the Dellum for Mayor Executive Committee.

The Make a Joyful Noise Gospel Concert, allowed the audience to walk through history from Negro spirituals to Gospel. Songs were sung, smiles reigned and souls were touched.

The month long program ended with a presentation detailing the Foothill De Anza Campus Abroad Program to Ghana, West Africa in Summer 2008 by Foothill Communication Arts Instructor Shawn Townes, Ph.D. The program will provide students from all academic disciplines the unique opportunity to learn about this country and its people, through integrated study with Ghanaian residents and immersion into the cultural and social life of a Ghanaian community. The fascinating presentation focused on how students could financially participate in this exciting program. Additional orientations on the Ghana Campus Abroad Program are planned during the Fall Quarter. Its not to late to participate. Learn more at www.foothill.edu/programs/campusabroad.html.

Foothill’s Black History Month Celebration was made possible by the BHM 2007 Committee: Anika Dods, co-chair, Confince Dukunde, co-chair, Maria Elena Apodaca, Baomi Butts, Antonette Chavez, I Chen, Patricia Davoren, Donald Dorsey, Robert Garcia, Bubba Gong, Cocetta Guill, Maisha Hayward-Smith, April Henderson, Juler Kazehi, Naomi Kizujima, Kimberly Lane, Natalia Menendez, Joyce McLeod, Steve Mitchell, Rose Myers, Erin Clifford Ortiz, Robert Pierce, Harry Satterfield, Daphne Small, Shawn Townes and Davida Vance-Lee.

The committee was supported by the Student Activities Office, with financial support from the Associated Student of Foothill College (ASFC), and the following community service organizations, foundations, and corporations: Alpha Kappa Alphas Sorority, Inc, Rho Delta Omega & Eta Rho Omega Chapters; Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc, Eta Sigma Lambda Chapter; Coalition of Black Women, Silicon Valley Chapter; The Links Incorporated, Peninsula and San Jose Chapters; Foothill Commission; Pepsi-Cola; Wells Fargo Bank, Bank of the West, Wal-Mart; and Smart and Final.

Please Join Us

The Foothill Black History Month 2008 Committee is now forming. Students are being recruited for the committee. If you would like to join the committee visit the Student Activities Office in the Campus Center to learn the time and dates of planning committee meetings. Get involved!

Study Abroad in Ghana Summer 2008

It IS Possible!

Do you want to travel abroad and expand your horizons? Would you like to go to Ghana but think it may not be possible at this time in your life? Well maybe it is more possible than you think. Read on and find out how you can become a part of this exciting trip to “the motherland” and earn college credit while discovering your rich heritage.

Dr. Shawn Townes, a popular Foothill Speech Instructor, will lead Foothill students in an exploration of numerous historical sites and special events. Imagine visiting the Ghana Cultural Arts Center, Traditional Drumming and Dance Workshops, Elmina Slave Dungeons, Kakum Park Animal Reserve, Legon University; spend a day with native Ghanaians and much more.

Fundraisers and scholarship opportunities are available to help reduce the cost of the trip so contact Shawn Townes to find out how.

Cost: 3,000 (includes airfare, dormitory and hotel accommodations, two meals per day, all lectures, museum and tour entry fees, and in-country transportation).

Installment Plans are available so pay over time from March 2007-May 2008.

Contact: Dr. Shawn Townes at (650) 949-7347 or townes@foothill.edu.
Foothill College African American Network

Purpose
The purpose of this organization shall be to function in an advocacy and support role for Foothill-De Anza Community College District employees of African descent as well as Foothill College students of African descent.

African American Network Executive Board Goals for 2007-08

1. Work with the dean of Faculty & Staff and District Human Resources to develop effective recruitment, retention and advancement strategies that result in an increase in all job classifications for professionals of African ancestry.
2. Improve marketing of African American Network programs and services to ensure the success of students and employees of African ancestry.
3. Collaborate with OLA, APAN, GSA, and MSA to improve curricular options and support services for students.
4. Improve effectiveness and efficiency of African American Network traditional programs and services.

Foothill College African American Network 2007-08 Program Calendar

October 3, 2007  Welcome New & Returning Student Orientation (Fall) BBQ Pit, District Offices 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

October 6, 2007  Annual African American Network Welcome Back BBQ (Fall) The Home of Sondra and Harry Saterfield 2:00 - 7:00 PM

October 29, 2007  African American Network General Membership Meeting (Fall) Toyon Room, Campus Center 4:00 - 5:00 PM

January 16, 2008  Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Luncheon (Winter) Dining Room Campus Center Noon - 1:00 PM

February 2008  Black History Month Celebrations

March 13, 2008  African American Network General Membership Meeting (Winter) Toyon Room, Campus Center 4:00 - 5:00 PM

May 15, 2008  African American Network General Membership Meeting (Spring) Toyon Room, Campus Center 4:00 - 5:00 PM

June 27, 2008  Hazarheme 2008 Afrocentric Rites of Passage Ceremony of Graduates, University Transfers & Certificate Awards Location: To Be Announced 3:00 - 4:00 PM

Community Members not listed from pg. 2 For most of the children, this unique dance program offers them their first visit to a college, and also their first experience of a live fine arts performance. The campus tours provide these youngsters with opportunities for potentially life-changing interactions with Foothill students and reinforce that their aspirations to pursue a higher education is an achievable goal. Lorraine’s hard work and encouragement has contributed greatly to our success with this residency program.

Executive Board 2007-2008

President Donald Dorsey, Dean Student Affairs & Activities

Vice President Melanie Hale, Counselor Psychological Services

Secretary Ach’sah Harris Part-Time Payroll Contract Specialist Administrative Services

Treasurer MariaElena Apodaca Outreach Specialist Student Success Office

Community Liaison Joyce McLeod Testing Proctor Adaptive Learning & Disabled Services

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If you have news or letters to the editor, please contact Melanie Hale at (650) 949-7668 or e-mail halemelanie@fhda.edu All letters must be accompanied by a valid mailing address, telephone number and registry full name. Good citizens: www.foothill.edu/ceenetwork

The Griot Editors

Donald Dorsey  Melanie Hale

Contributors

MariaElena Apodaca Ach’sah Harris Maisha Haywood-Smith Kurt Huq Judy Miner Joyce McLeod Stephen Mitchell Rose Myers

Acknowledgments

Our African Ancestors Lori Thomas Foothill African American Network Newspaper Design by Linn Haddock Photographs by Bill Frankeberger

For eight years, Robert Garcia has worked diligently to support the academic success of students of African ancestry. Whether he is recruiting team members, team leaders, or encouraging participation in Brother to Brother, his careful attention has guided many students. Most recently, his connection with artist Milton Bowens was part in the inspiration for Bowens’ portrait of the late Jean Thomas, a work that is now part of a nationally-acclaimed exhibit, “Can you Spare Some Change?” In addition, Robert worked closely with Milton and his brother, Perry, to coordinate a national bone marrow donor drive at Foothill, serving our communities of color.

Herlisa Hamp

Director Office of Student Recruitment & School Relations College of the Canyons

Herlisa joined the Foothill family in 2000 as a student outreach specialist. Her position afforded her the opportunity to utilize her many gifts and talents in effectively reaching out to Foothill students.

She did this with an attitude of love, belief in their potential for success and true interest in empowering students along their journey to complete their goals. Not only was Herlisa a tireless student advocate, she also reached out to her Foothill colleagues with the same warmth, care and vigor.

Through the Mfumo Program, Early Alert, the AAN and its events, Herlisa was a strong organizer, creative, supportive, devoted, and always went above and beyond to help our students. One day an out-of-state student showed up on campus to enroll in classes. Discovering that he had no place to live, Herlisa assisted him in finding housing.

Students and staff alike knew they could count on her to be there to listen and help find solutions to their problems.

Shortly after her arrival at Foothill the Classified Senate recognized her as employee of the month. She was appreciated for her efforts in seeing that our students were given access to the support and resources they needed to succeed. She would personally take students to meet with counselors, staff or instructors. She served on the executive board of the AAN and contributed richly to all of its events. Herlisa was very active in her community as a leader for the Girl Scouts as well as an active member of her church. She continues to be a role model for us all.

Former recipients of the Ujima Awards are Gaeza Guinn, Sara Boyd, Leon Beasman, Rose Deslode, Michael Cunningham, Virginia Grace- Roberts, Mildred Swann, Jean Thomas, Donald Dorsey, John Bostic, and Warren Hard.